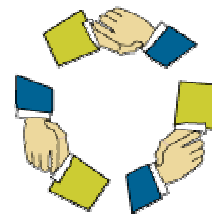


# Collisions with Fixed Objects in Kentucky, 2000-2004

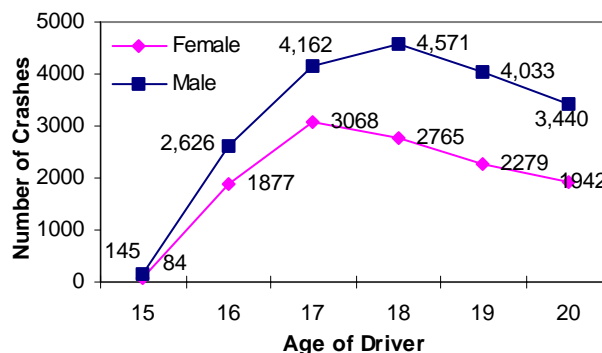
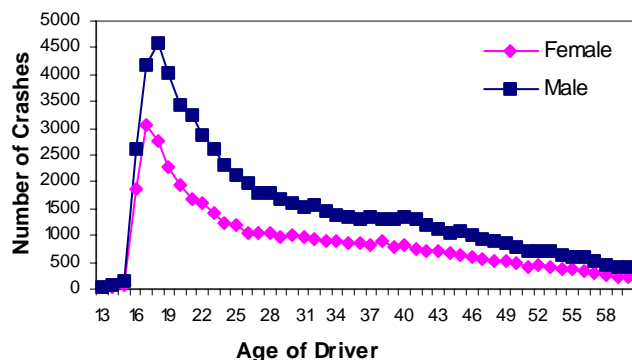
**FACT SHEET, February 2006**

*Kentucky Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES)*



**Did you know ...** Collisions in which a vehicle leaves the roadway and strikes a fixed object, such as an embankment, culvert, tree, or utility pole, represent only 17% of all motor vehicle crashes (MVC's) in Kentucky, but account for **40% of persons killed** and approximately **one-third of those hospitalized** as a result of MVC's every year.

**Who:** Age and Gender of Drivers Involved in Fixed Object Collisions during 2000-2004



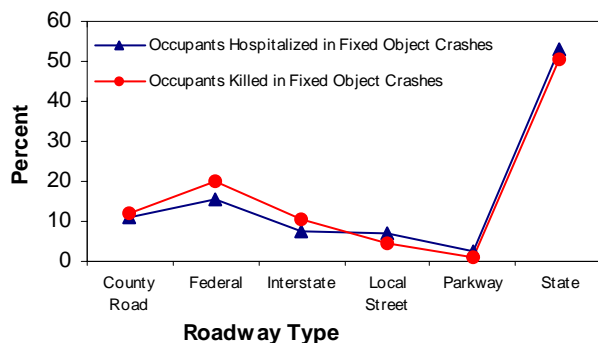
- Fixed object crashes were most common among drivers **25 and younger**, with the peak occurring at **ages 17 to 19**.

**What:** Type of Object Struck in Fixed Objects Crashes during 2000-2004

First Object Struck	Number of Crashes	Occupants Hospitalized	Occupants Killed
Embankment/Rock cut/Ditch	36,896 ( 30%)	2,612 ( 36%)	542 ( 31%)
Tree	15,320 ( 12%)	1,611 ( 22%)	507 ( 29%)
Guardrail face	9,937 ( 8%)	406 ( 6%)	120 ( 7%)
Fence	9,561 ( 8%)	353 ( 5%)	69 ( 4%)
Utility pole	8,774 ( 7%)	536 ( 7%)	80 ( 5%)
Culvert/Head Wall	4,092 ( 3%)	429 ( 6%)	112 ( 6%)
Total	122,979(100%)	7,356(100%)	1,752(100%)

- The most common object struck was the **earth**, in the form of an embankment, rock cut, ditch, etc. The second most common was a **tree**. Together these two accounted for 60% of fatalities and 58% of hospitalizations due to fixed object crashes.

**Where:** Percentage of Fatalities and Hospitalizations in Fixed Object Crashes by Type of Road during 2000-2004

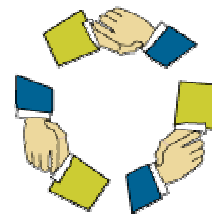


- More than half of all fatalities and hospitalizations resulting from fixed object crashes occurred on **state roads**. Relatively few occurred on interstates and parkways, even though speed limits are generally higher there.

# Collisions with Fixed Objects in Kentucky, 2000-2004

**FACT SHEET, February 2006**

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## Why: Driver-related Contributing Factors in Fixed Object Crashes during 2000-2004

Human Factor	Number of Crashes	Occupants Hospitalized	Occupants Killed
Inattention	20,099 ( 16%)	983 ( 13%)	156 ( 9%)
Not Under Proper Control	15,932 ( 13%)	961 ( 13%)	260 ( 15%)
Alcohol Involvement	13,122 ( 11%)	1,719 ( 23%)	547 ( 31%)
Too Fast for Conditions	12,764 ( 10%)	501 ( 7%)	97 ( 6%)
Overcorrecting/Oversteering	7,735 ( 6%)	469 ( 6%)	106 ( 6%)
Exceeded Stated Speed Limit	2,786 ( 2%)	316 ( 4%)	168 ( 10%)
Total	122,979(100%)	7,356(100%)	1,752(100%)

- Alcohol, speed-related factors, and inattention** were the leading reported driver-related contributors to fixed object crashes that resulted in hospitalization or death. There is no clear definition available for “**Not under proper control**,” but it was also cited often.*

## Crash Outcomes: Fatalities, Hospitalizations, and Hospital Charges Resulting from Fixed Object Crashes during 2000-2004

Year	Crashes*	Fatalities*	Hospitalizations		Hospital charges**	
			Any Injury	Traumatic Brain Injury	Total, \$	Mean, \$
2000	24,418 (16%)	338 (43%)	1,379 (32%)	458 (36%)	30M	22K
2001	23,301 (16%)	315 (39%)	1,448 (31%)	495 (35%)	35M	24K
2002	24,567 (17%)	364 (41%)	1,501 (30%)	473 (33%)	42M	28K
2003	25,728 (18%)	369 (40%)	1,532 (32%)	484 (33%)	49M	32K
2004	24,965 (17%)	366 (39%)	1,496 (30%)	462 (32%)	51M	34K

\* The numbers of crashes and fatalities may differ slightly from the numbers in the “Traffic Collision Facts” by the Kentucky Transportation Center, due to differences in definitions and inclusion criteria.

\*\* The hospital charges listed here represent the amount billed by the hospital, not the amount that was ultimately paid.

- Fixed object crashes represented 17% of all crashes from 2000 to 2004, but 40% of all fatalities and nearly one-third of all hospitalizations. Hospital charges stemming from these crashes totaled \$207 million over these five years, and the average bill per hospitalization increased from \$22,000 in 2000 to \$34,000 in 2004.***

## Who Paid the Hospital Bills: Hospital Charges by Primary Payer during 2000-2004

Primary Payer	Charges* in Millions & Percent (%)	
Commercial	\$142 (69%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i><b>Commercial insurers were the first-listed payer on the hospital bill for nearly 70% of the <u>initial</u> hospital charges associated with fixed object crashes. Medicare and Medicaid together were the first-listed payer for 15%.</b></i></li> </ul>
Medicaid	\$15 ( 7%)	
Medicare	\$16 ( 8%)	
Self Pay	\$10 ( 5%)	
Workers Comp.	\$4 ( 2%)	
All Other	\$19 ( 9%)	

\* The hospital charges listed here represent the amount billed by the hospital, not the amount that was ultimately paid.